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Question1: Since we have so many older farmers of retirement age. I think that some type of encouragement for the older generation to sell to the younger generation. would be a good start. In our areas, we see many of the retiring farmers, selling to land development Co.'s and breaking of the land into housing developments, rather than trying to keep good farming ground in whole and productive pieces. There have been some who have sold their lands to younger family members or neighboring farmers as ( I believe it's called Life estate's) where the elder person can live out the rest of his life in his own home until his or their death. It give younger relatives a chance to have someone to turn to in need of helpful advise and the older person can retain his pride and worth, as the younger takes over. There of couse are the situations where many of the younger people in the family do not want to stay in the Farm business. There is also the older generation of farmers who do not have anyone of their own disention to take over or retain the farm. My Father said " That a farmer was the biggest gambler you would ever meet." When you look at the stakes in farming. Why would anyone really want to farm, given the fact that you have to either be a verbal wizzard to buy, operate,make a profit, survive all the hazards of market and the weather. Not to mention infation prices of all the needs in operating a farm. Family pride in land ownership will not carry the day anymore. We need something that will make put Farming back on the top of the list for home grown US citizens to want to stay and own what their ancestors faught so hard to gain. We need to give the messaage to our own US citizens, that ownership of the land should stay in our own country. That only then will we survive what has disentigrated others like Russia. It can happen here too.

Question2: A blanket farm bill for the whole country is a determent to us all. We cannot comepete when policies do not take into consideration the fact that diferent areas have different needs. This one for all, and all for one is great for some things. But somethings need to be addressed, not in cutthroat battle, but in cooperation with state by state and instate regions. To address the needs of all the farmers and rach/farmers , helping them to make choices that are not only profitable to them but to the nation. Every area has ita apeal and what can be raised in that area, may some times be killed by the influcation of foreign products. Maybe we need to stop and take some reassments of what really can be raised best in an spific areas and make farm bills, that encourage the famers of these regions to make the choices that will benefit, home trade and productive exchange, as well as enhace the greater needs of world wide markets. In most cases product and demand has to balance or be stored for longer amounts of time, or be encouraged to put forth the extra expense and effort to produce the high need/high price products. We like to think that in OUR country. That farmers will be encouraged to make the right choices for all reasons not just for the greed of land or money.

Question3: For one thing "You don't rob Peter to pay Paul." No matter

what you do in this bill there will always be those who feel they got the short end. The real question is: Do we want only large land owners, usually NOT the individual citizen but corporations and conglomerates to own farmland. Because that is the direction of the wind at this point in time. I really do wish that I could tell you how to be fair to everyone. I would like you to take consideration as to the older population of farmers when you construct your fairness guides.

Question4: In the goals that need to be achieved. I ask you: Is Farm Policy now FATHER GOD? Doesn't Farm Policy work in co-operation with Fish and Game, Department of water resources, health and welfare, Dept. of Forest resources and any others might have missed. The first goal of all is to keep our farmers producing and able to make a living. Just remember there are some of us who must live off the land not just glorified goals.

Question5: It would help very much if the agency representatives would actually LISTEN to the farmers and people of the area who have lived out there lives there and know what is needed for the good of the area. Sometimes the elderly are more wise than us who have high ED. Degrees. Application of technological interests do not always mean that's the right thing to do. Sometimes gathering past historical information of farming and water resources of an isolated areas, can be the difference between making or breaking the survival of it as a farming region. Just because an engineer can establish the correct way to put in an irrigation system for wells does not mean that he knows how to establish one for creeks and springs.

Question6: Promotion of qualified areas for specific products that are best grown for their quality in those areas. Instead of the blanket policy that is mostly encouraged now. Some research into, say high altitude turkey red wheat that produces very high percentages of protein. That's in great demand for health food stores. Not all farmers realize what the best market is to cater to.